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Western Gateway Heritage State Park

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

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Park Supervisor

Visitors' Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JR. DUCK STAMP ART EXHIBIT

North Adams - An exhibit of Junior Duck Stamp Art by students is on display at Western Gateway Heritage State Park Visitor Center Community Gallery. The award winning, original artwork is on exhibit now through October 15.

Over 870 student from public, private and home schools in the state participated in the annual competition sponsored by MassWildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited. First place selection by a panel of judges goes on to compete on the national level. The winner of the national competition receives a \$2,500 scholarship and has their artwork printed as the Junior Duck Stamp. Seven year old Cal Najimy of Savoy's honorable mention work is on display.

The Junior Duck Stamp program is a conservation and design program for school children promoting habitat conservation. Since 1934 funds from the sale from the stamp have been used to manage and protect vital living areas for waterfowl that would otherwise have been abused or destroyed. Teachers and home-schooling parents across the state and nation, in grades K-12, incorporate the program as part of their curriculum integrating both art and science. The exhibit of statewide winners is to tour across Massachusetts for the entire year. For more information on the exhibit schedule, or to participate in next year's competition visit the MassWildlife web site at www.masswildlife.org. To discover more about the Junior Duck Stamp program on the Internet visit <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>.

Western Gateway Heritage State Park Visitors Center is located on Route 8 between State and Furnace Streets in North Adams, is open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. Admission is free, donations accepted. For more information call (413) 663-6312.

press release